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P/C~~INT COOPERATION TREATY~~

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT**NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE**(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 24 December 2001 (24.12.01)
Applicant's or agent's file reference 2990348PC/nu
International application No. PCT/FI00/00827

To: KOLSTER OY AB Iso Roobertinkatu 23 P.O. Box 148 FIN-00121 Helsinki FINLANDE

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> the inventor <input type="checkbox"/> the agent <input type="checkbox"/> the common representative				
Name and Address NOKIA NETWORKS OY Keilalahdentie 4 FIN-02150 Espoo Finland	State of Nationality		State of Residence	
	FI		FI	
	Telephone No.			
	Facsimile No.			
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:				
<input type="checkbox"/> the person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the name <input type="checkbox"/> the address <input type="checkbox"/> the nationality <input type="checkbox"/> the residence				
Name and Address NOKIA CORPORATION Keilalahdentie 4 FIN-02150 Espoo Finland	State of Nationality		State of Residence	
	FI		FI	
	Telephone No.			
	Facsimile No.			
3. Further observations, if necessary:				
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office <input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority		<input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned <input type="checkbox"/> other:		

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Marie-José DEVILLARD Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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P/INT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 18 June 2001 (18.06.01)	To: Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/FI00/00827	Applicant's or agent's file reference 2990348PC/nu
International filing date (day/month/year) 27 September 2000 (27.09.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 September 1999 (29.09.99)
Applicant KIRLA, Olli	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

12 March 2001 (12.03.01)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.36	Authorized officer Claudio Borton Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
---	--

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT	
PO	REC'D 20 DEC 2001
PCT	

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

12

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2990348PC/su	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/FI00/00827	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.09.2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.09.1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC7 H04Q 7/38		
Applicant Nokia Networks OY et al] NOKIA CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12.03.2001	Date of completion of this report 12.12.2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	Authorized officer Elisabet Åselius/js Telephone No. 08-782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00827

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheet/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00827

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents cited in the International Search Report:

US 5884173 A
EP 0415502 A2

"CDMA Packet Transmission Control in the Third Generation Mobile Communications System" Nagasuka M. et al.

"Handover and Link Adaptation on the RACE/ATDMA System Concept for a 3rd Generation Air Interface by Simulation" David K. et al.

The documents cited in the International Search Report represent the prior art. The claimed invention stated in claims 1-13 is not considered to be anticipated by these documents. None of the documents or any relevant combination of them reveals a handover performed within a base station controller as described by these claims.

According to the arguments stated above, the invention claimed in claims 1-13 is novel, considered to involve an inventive step and to have industrial applicability.

RECORD COPY

PCT REQUEST

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2990348PC/su

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 27.09.2000 01:36:31 PM

0 0-1	For receiving Office use only International Application No.	PCT/FI 00 / 00827
0-2	International Filing Date	27 SEP 2000 (27-09-2000)
0-3	Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"	The Finnish Patent Office PCT International Application
0-4 0-4-1	Form - PCT/RO/101 PCT Request Prepared using	PCT-EASY Version 2.91 (updated 01.07.2000)
0-5	Petition The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty	
0-6	Receiving Office (specified by the applicant)	National Board of Patents and Registration (Finland) (RO/FI)
0-7	Applicant's or agent's file reference	2990348PC/su
I	Title of invention	MOBILE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
II	Applicant This person is:	applicant only
II-1	Applicant for	all designated States except US
II-4	Name	NOKIA NETWORKS OY
II-5	Address:	Keilalahdentie 4 FIN-02150 Espoo Finland
II-6	State of nationality	FI
II-7	State of residence	FI
III-1	Applicant and/or inventor This person is:	applicant and inventor
III-1-1	Applicant for	US only
III-1-4	Name (LAST, First)	KIRLA, Olli
III-1-5	Address:	Kypäräkuja 9 D 8 FIN-02610 Espoo Finland
III-1-6	State of nationality	FI
III-1-7	State of residence	FI

PCT REQUEST

2990348PC/su

Original (for SUBMISSION) - printed on 27.09.2000 01:36:31 PM

IV-1	Agent or common representative; or address for correspondence The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:	agent
IV-1-1	Name	KOLSTER OY AB
IV-1-2	Address:	Iso Roobertinkatu 23 P.O. Box 148 FIN-00121 Helsinki Finland
IV-1-3	Telephone No.	+ 358 9 618 821
IV-1-4	Faxsimile No.	+ 358 9 602 244
IV-1-5	e-mail	Kolster@Kolster.Fi
V	Designation of States	
V-1	Regional Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AP: GH GM KE LS MW MZ SD SL SZ TZ UG ZW and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT EA: AM AZ BY KG KZ MD RU TJ TM and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT EP: AT BE CH&LI CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT OA: BF BJ CF CG CI CM GA GN GW ML MR NE SN TD TG and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT
V-2	National Patent (other kinds of protection or treatment, if any, are specified between parentheses after the designation(s) concerned)	AE AG AL AM AT (patent and utility model) AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY BZ CA CH&LI CN CR CU CZ (patent and utility model) DE (patent and utility model) DK (patent and utility model) DM DZ EE (patent and utility model) ES FI (patent and utility model) GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP KR (patent and utility model) KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MA MD MG MK MN MW MX MZ NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK (patent and utility model) SL TJ TM TR TT TZ UA UG US UZ VN YU ZA ZW

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V-5	Precautionary Designation Statement In addition to the designations made under items V-1, V-2 and V-3, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) of the State(s) indicated under item V-6 below. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit.	
V-6	Exclusion(s) from precautionary designations	NONE
VI-1	Priority claim of earlier national application	
VI-1-1	Filing date	29 September 1999 (29.09.1999)
VI-1-2	Number	19992090
VI-1-3	Country	FI
VI-2	Priority document request The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s):	VI-1
VII-1	International Searching Authority Chosen	Swedish Patent Office (ISA/SE)
VIII	Check list	number of sheets
VIII-1	Request	4
VIII-2	Description	15
VIII-3	Claims	6
VIII-4	Abstract	1
VIII-5	Drawings	2990348p.txt
VIII-7	TOTAL	7
VIII-8	Accompanying items	paper document(s) attached
VIII-9	Fee calculation sheet	✓
VIII-10	Separate signed power of attorney	✓
VIII-11	Copy of general power of attorney	✓
VIII-16	PCT-EASY diskette	—
VIII-17	Other (specified):	diskette
VIII-18	Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract	Copy of Official Action
VIII-19	Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract	2c
IX-1	Language of filing of the international application	English
IX-1-1	Signature of applicant or agent	
IX-1-1	Name	KOLSTER OY AB
		Tapio Valkeiskangas

FOR RECEIVING OFFICE USE ONLY

10-1	Date of actual receipt of the purported international application	27 SEP 2000	(27 -09- 2000)
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4/4

PCT REQUEST

2990348PC/su

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10-2	Drawings:	
10-2-1	Received	
10-2-2	Not received	
10-3	Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application	
10-4	Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2)	
10-5	International Searching Authority	ISA/SE
10-6	Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

FOR INTERNATIONAL BUREAU USE ONLY

11-1	Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau	
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17.08.2000

RECEIVED

8 -08- 2000

Kolster Oy Ab

Iso Roobertinkatu 23

00120 Helsinki

KOLSTER OY AB

Patentihakemus nro: 19992090
 Luokka: H04Q / JSA
 Hakija: Nokia Networks Oy
 Asiamies: Kolster Oy Ab
 Asiamiehen viite: 2990348FI/ly/58/9 Ho
 Määräpäivä: 17.02.2001

Patentihakemuksen numero ja luokka on mainittava kirjelmässänne PRH:lle

Suoritetussa tutkimuksessa ei tullut esiin estettä hakemuksen hyväksynnälle. Hakijaa kehotetaan toimittamaan virastoon suomenkielisiä vaatimuksia vastaavat ruotsinkieliset vaatimukset.

Esimerkkinä tutkimuksessa esille tulleista julkaisuista liitetään oheen julkaisu WO95/18513, jossa esitettyllä ratkaisulla pyritään pienentämään tukiasemaohjaimelta toiselle tapahtuvan yhteysvastuuun vaihdon yhteydessä tapahtuva hetkellistä yhteyden katkeamista, kuvasarjassa 5a- 5j hahmotellulla laitteistolla ja järjestelyllä.

Tutkijainsinööri
Puhelin:

Jukka Saranka
(09) 6939 5394

Lausumanne huomautusten johdosta on annettava viimeistään yllämainittuna määräpäivänä. Jollette ole antanut lausumanne virastoon viimeistään mainittuna määräpäivänä tai ryhtynyt toimenpiteisiin tässä välipäätöksessä esitettyjen puutteellisuksien korjaamiseksi, jätetään hakemus sillensä (patenttilain 15 §). Sillensä jätetty hakemus otetaan uudelleen käsittelväksi, jos Te neljän kuukauden kuluessa määräpäivästä annatte lausumanne tai ryhdytte toimenpiteisiin esitettyjen puutteellisuksien korjaamiseksi ja samassa ajassa suoritatte vahvistetun maksun, 320 mk hakemuksen ottamisesta uudelleen käsittelväksi. Jos lausumanne on annettu virastoon oikeassa ajassa, mutta esitettyjä puutteellisuksia ei ole sitten korjattu, etä hakemus voitaisiin hyväksyä, se hylätään, mikäli virastolla ei ole aihetta antaa. Teille uutta välipäätöstä (patenttilain 16 §). Uusi keksinnön selitys, siihen tehdyt lisäykset ja uudet patenttivaatimukset on aina jätettävä kahtena kappaleena ja tällöin on otettava huomioon patenttiasetuksen 19 §.

PÄÄTENTTIHAKEMUS NRO 19992090	LUOKITUS H04Q 7/38
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TUTKITTU AINEISTO

Patenttijulkaisukokonaisuus (FI, SE, NO, DK, DE, CH, EP, WO, GB, US), tutkitut luokat

Tiedonhaut ja muu aineisto

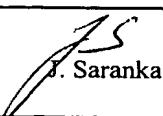
Haku Epodoc tietokannassa termeillä: base station controller or BSC luokassa h04q7/38h/ec, luokka h04q7/38h8/ec

Haku WPI tietokannassa termeillä: (MSC or mobile switching cent??) and (BSC or base station controller)

VIITEJULKAISUT

Kategoria*)	Julkaisun tunnistetiedot	Koskee vaatuimisia
A	WO 95/18513 lk H04Q 7/38, Philips Electronics N.V.	

*) X Patentoitavuuden kannalta merkittävä julkaisu yksinään tarkasteltuna
Y Patentoitavuuden kannalta merkittävä julkaisu, kun otetaan huomioon tämä ja yksi tai useampi samaan kategoriaan kuuluva julkaisu
A Yleistä tekniikan tasoa edustava julkaisu, ei kuitenkaan patentoitavuuden este

Päiväys 16.8.2000	Tutkija  J. Saranka
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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 April 2001 (05.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24558 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

H04Q 7/38

(21) International Application Number:

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27 September 2000 (27.09.2000)

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English

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English

(30) Priority Data:

19992090 29 September 1999 (29.09.1999) FI

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NOKIA NETWORKS OY [FI/FI]**; Keilalahdentie 4, FIN-02150 Espoo (FI).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **KIRLA, Olli [FI/FI]**; Kypäräkuja 9 D 8, FIN-02610 Espoo (FI).

(74) Agent: **KOLSTER OY AB**; Iso Roobertinkatu 23, P.O. Box 148, FIN-00121 Helsinki (FI).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

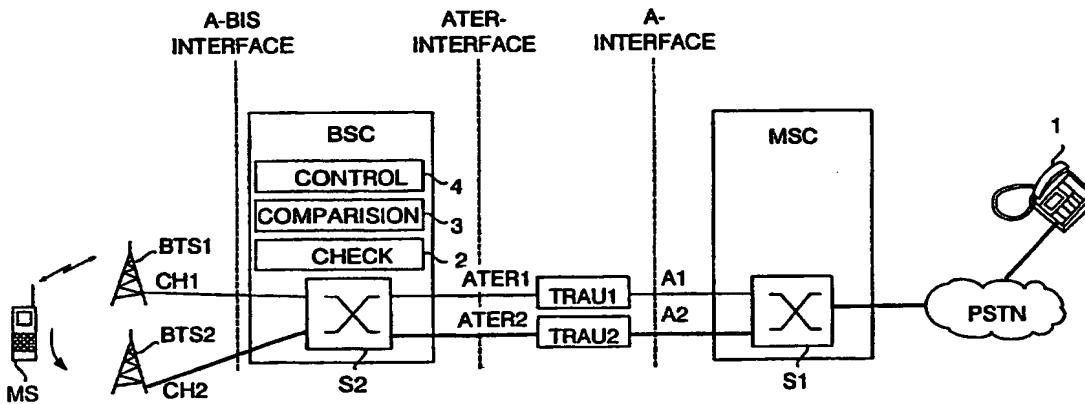
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HANDOVER PERFORMED WITHIN A BASE STATION CONTROLLER



WO 01/24558 A1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for performing a handover with the view of changing a telecommunications channel utilized by a connection between a mobile station (MS) and a mobile services switching centre (MSC) in a mobile communications system, the telecommunications channel comprising a radio channel connecting the mobile station (MS) and a base station (BTS1) and a channel connecting the base station (BTS1) and the mobile services switching centre (MSC). To make sure that the handover causes as little interference as possible to the ongoing connection, the allocation of a new radio channel to the connection involves checking whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, which happens if either the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes, or if they both change at the same time, in connection with the handover, and directing the switching function (S1) of the mobile services switching centre (MSC) to perform the handover if the checks show that the handover is a BSC-internal handover where the trigger condition is met.

Handover Performed within a Base Station Controller

The invention relates to a handover performed in a mobile communication system where a connection between a mobile station and a mobile services switching centre is transferred from a first channel to a second channel. The invention relates particularly to the interference a handover performed within a base station controller causes to an ongoing connection.

A BSC-internal (Base Station Controller) handover takes place between base stations controlled by one and the same base station controller; a radio channel is allocated to a mobile station from another base station controlled by the same base station controller as the base station which provided the radio channel the mobile station had been using so far. Alternatively, the handover may take place within a base station in which case the mobile station is allocated a new radio channel from the same base station which provided the mobile station's previous radio channel. In this context the term 'radio channel' refers generally to a channel used on the radio path, such as a frequency channel, in a Frequency Division Multiple Access Radio System (FDMA) is concerned or a specific time slot on a frequency channel, when a Frequency Division Multiple Access and Time Division Multiple Access (FDMA/TDMA) radio system is concerned.

Prior art knows a mobile communication system, shown in Figures 1a and 1b, where BSC-internal handover processes are carried out by a switching function S2 located in the base station controller BSC. The switching function S2 can in this case operate similarly as a simple double-throw switch which allows a bidirectional data flow (i.e. the uplink and downlink data flows of a mobile station MS and a mobile services switching centre MSC) to be transferred simultaneously at a predetermined moment from the original telecommunication channel CH1 to a target channel CH2. If the telecommunication channels in question are served by two separate base stations, then the base station transmitting the connection, such as a call, changes during the handover process. Figure 1a illustrates a situation before the handover and Figure 1b after the handover. Figures 1a and 1b show that in the prior art solution the telecommunications channel changes only on the connection between the mobile station MS and the base station controller BSC.

One of the drawbacks of the above described prior art solution is

that if there is a long transmission delay between the switching functions of the mobile station and the base station controller, or if the synchronization of the mobile station to a new channel is delayed, due to interference on the radio interface for example, then the handover may cause a break. In the downlink 5 direction in particular, such a break may be inconveniently long.

Another weakness of the above described prior art solution is that if the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes during the handover, this may cause interfering noises audible to the user of the mobile station. The speech coding method may need to be changed because new 10 speech coding methods have been (or are being) introduced into many digital mobile communication systems. A mobile communication system may therefore employ various speech coding methods simultaneously and therefore situations arise in the system which require the speech coding method to be changed in connection with a handover. The GSM system 15 (Global System for Mobile communications) is an example of such a system. In the GSM, a speech processing unit TRAU (Transcoder Rate Adaptor Unit) immediately changes the speech coding method when it receives a first new uplink speech frame and only then starts to apply the new speech coding method to downlink encoding. If the transmission delay is long, it is possible 20 that downlink data coded with the previous speech coding method still arrives for some time after the handover, before the uplink data coded with the new method reaches the speech processing unit. This causes disturbing noises to the mobile station. To avoid such disturbing noises, the downlink connection should be delayed by a period of time which is twice the transmission delay. A 25 delay of such a length would, however, cause a fairly distinct audio break in the downlink.

A break similar to the one described above may also appear in situations where the data transfer rate changes in connection with the handover, although the speech coding method remains the same. In the GSM 30 system, for example, a speech coding method known as an AMR (Adaptive Multi Rate) method is about to be introduced, the method allowing the data transfer rate between the mobile station and the base station controller to be selected among eight alternative rates. This will allow the speech coding method of the ongoing connection to remain unchanged (in other words, both 35 the new and the old data transfer channel apply the AMR method), but the data transfer rate of the connection will, nevertheless, change in connection

with the handover.

It is an object of the present invention to solve the above problems and to provide a solution which allows a BSC-internal handover to be carried out so that it interferes with the ongoing connection as little as possible. The

5 invention aims particularly at providing a solution which allows the interference to be minimized in a BSC-internal handover where the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes. These objects are achieved with a method of the invention for performing a handover where a telecommunications channel used by a connection between a mobile station and a mobile services switching centre is changed in a mobile communication system where the telecommunications channel comprises a radio channel connecting the mobile station and a base station and a channel connecting the base station and the mobile services switching centre. The method of the invention is characterized in that the method comprises the steps of selecting a new radio channel for
10 the connection in question; checking whether the handover is a BSC-internal handover where the base station employing the new radio channel and the base station employing the old radio channel are controlled by one and the same base station controller; checking whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, which happens if either the speech coding method or the data
15 transfer rate changes, or if they both change at the same time, in connection with the handover; and directing a switching function located in the mobile services switching centre to perform the handover, provided that the checks show that the handover is a BSC-internal handover where the trigger condition is met.

25 The invention further relates to a mobile communication system where the method of the invention can be applied. The mobile communication system of the invention comprises: a mobile services switching centre, a mobile station communicating with the mobile services switching centre over a first telecommunications channel; and control means for directing the
30 handover with the view of replacing the first telecommunications channel used for a connection between the mobile station and the mobile services switching centre by a second telecommunications channel. The system of the invention is further characterized in that the system further comprises: comparison means comparing the speech coding method and the data transfer rate used by the first telecommunications channel with one or more speech coding methods and data transfer rates available to the second telecommunications
35

channel in order to find out whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, which happens if the speech coding method used by first telecommunications channel is not available to the second telecommunications channel and/or if the data transfer rate of the second telecommunications channel is different
5 from the data transfer rate of the first telecommunications channel; checking means checking whether the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller where the base station transmitting the first telecommunications channel is controlled by the same base station controller as the base station transmitting the second telecommunications channel; and
10 that the control means direct the switching function of the mobile services switching centre to perform the handover, provided that the comparison means and the checking means show that the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller where the trigger condition is met.

The invention still further relates to a base station controller that can
15 be used in the system of the invention. The base station controller of the invention comprises: control means for directing a handover with the view of replacing a first telecommunications channel used for a connection between a mobile station and a mobile services switching centre by a second telecommunications channel. The base station controller of the invention is
20 characterized in that the base station controller further comprises: comparison means for comparing the speech coding method and the data transfer rate used by the mobile station on the first telecommunications channel with one or more speech coding methods available to the second telecommunications channel and with the data transfer rate available to the second
25 telecommunications channel in order to find out whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, which happens if the speech coding method used by the first telecommunications channel is not available to the second telecommunications channel, and/or if the data transfer rate of the second telecommunications channel is different from that used by the first
30 telecommunications channel; checking means checking whether the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller where the base station transmitting the first telecommunications channel and the base station transmitting the second telecommunications channel are controlled by the base station controller in question; and that the control means direct the
35 switching function of the mobile services switching centre to perform the handover, provided that the comparison means and the checking means show

that the handover takes place within the base station controller and that the trigger condition is met.

The invention is based on the idea that when the switching function located in the mobile services switching centre is used for carrying out a BSC-internal handover where the trigger condition is met (i.e. either the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes, or they both change at the same time, in connection with the handover), the interference caused by the handover to the ongoing connection can be minimized. The handover is then performed as if it took place between two different base station controllers, which allows interference caused to downlink signals in particular to be minimized. In the invention, this kind of handover is achieved by applying a signalling procedure which corresponds to signalling taking place in connection with a handover between two base station controllers, although physically the signalling procedure is carried out under the control of only one base station controller and between the mobile services switching centre and the base station controller in question. Hence, the most significant advantage of the invention is that it allows a BSC-internal handover which causes less interference to the ongoing connection to be carried out also in situations where the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes in connection with the handover.

BSC-internal handovers may be handover processes where the traffic channel between two base stations is changed, or, alternatively, handovers where a new channel is allocated to the connection at the same base station which provided the previous channel of the connection. The solution of the invention can be applied in both cases.

The preferred embodiments of the method and mobile communication system of the invention are disclosed in the accompanying dependent claims 2-5 and 7-12.

In the following the invention will be described in greater detail and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figures 1a - 1b illustrate a prior art mobile communication system;

Figures 2a - 2c are block diagrams illustrating a first preferred embodiment of the mobile communication system of the invention;

Figures 3a - 3c illustrate a branching/summing function;

Figures 4a - 4d illustrate a branching/switching function; and

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a first preferred embodiment of the

invention.

Figures 2a - 2c are block diagrams illustrating the first preferred embodiment of the mobile communication system of the invention. The mobile communication system shown in Figures 2a - 2c may be for example the GSM system.

Figure 2a shows an initial situation where a mobile station MS has a connection to a mobile services switching centre MSC over a telecommunication channel CH1 and further to a subscriber terminal 1 of the fixed telephone network PSTN, for example, through the mobile services switching centre MSC. The telecommunications channel CH1 of Figure 2a, which is indicated with a thick continuous line, is composed of a radio channel between a base station BTS1 and the mobile station MS and a channel between the base station BTS1 and the mobile services switching centre MSC. In Figure 2a, the channel between the base station BTS1 and the mobile services switching centre comprises a channel between the base station BTS1 and a base station controller BSC, an Ater interface channel Ater1 between the base station controller BSC and a speech processing unit TRAU1, and an A interface channel A1 between the speech processing unit TRAU1 and the mobile services switching centre MSC.

The frequency spectrum required by a digital mobile communication system, such as the GSM, depends on the transfer rate employed on the radio path. The greater the transfer rate used on the radio path, the broader the frequency spectrum it requires. This is why the speech coding used in the PSTN/ISDN (Public Switched Telephone Network/Integrated Services Digital Network), which transfers digital coded data at a rate of 64 kbit/s per traffic channel, is usually not suitable for use on the radio path. A GSM radio path, for example, therefore employs speech coding methods of low bit rate (Half Rate, Full Rate, Enhanced Full Rate), instead of the fixed network speech coding. In addition to these speech coding methods, a method known as AMR (Adaptive Multi Rate) speech coding where the data transfer rate can be selected among eight alternative rates is about to be taken in use in the GSM.

In the mobile communication system of Figure 2a, speech processing units TRAU1 and TRAU2 are arranged between the base station controller and the mobile services switching centre to allow the speech coding used on the radio path to be adapted to the speech coding used by the mobile services switching centre. The speech processing units (transcoders) carry out

the necessary coding, decoding and rate adjustment functions. In other words, for example in the GSM, the speech processing units may have 64 kbit/s interfaces towards the mobile services switching centre MSC, and 8 kbit/s interfaces in connection with Half Rate speech coding or 16 kbit/s interfaces in 5 connection with Full Rate or Enhanced Full Rate speech coding towards the base station controller.

When the mobile station MS in Figure 2a moves away from the first base station BTS1 during the connection employing the first telecommunications channel, approaching at the same time a second base 10 station BTS2, a need for handover to the second base station BTS2 arises. The base station controller BSC monitors the connection between the first base station BTS1 and the mobile station MS and when it detects that the connection degrades, it triggers the handover. The situation shown in Figure 15 2a assumes that the handover is carried out by transferring the ongoing connection of the mobile station MS from the radio channel of the first base station BTS1 to the radio channel of the second base station BTS2.

When a radio channel has been selected for the connection at the second base station BTS2, checking means 2 located in the base station controller BSC check if the new base station, i.e. BTS2, is also controlled by 20 the base station controller. In addition, the base station controller BSC knows the speech coding methods and data transfer rates available to the base stations it controls. This allows comparison means 3 located in the base station controller BSC to compare the speech coding method and the data transfer rate used by the first base station BTS1 with the speech coding 25 method and the data transfer rate available to the second base station. A predetermined trigger condition may be stored into the comparison means 3, the condition being met if the speech coding method employed is not available to the second base station, or if the second base station cannot use the same data transfer rate as the first base station. In the invention, a control unit 4 located in the base station controller BSC is informed of the results of the 30 check made by the checking means 2 and the comparison made by the comparison means 3 (i.e. whether the trigger condition is met or not). If the results show that

35 1) the handover is a BSC-internal handover in which the trigger condition is not met, the control unit 4 of the base station controller directs the switching function S2 to perform the handover. This means that a new

telecommunications channel is allocated to the ongoing connection of the mobile station only for the portion between the base station controller BSC and the mobile station MS (i.e. a new radio channel and a new channel for the connection between the base station controller BSC and the new base station 5 BTS2); in other words, the channel used by the speech processing unit or the mobile services switching centre does not change. Figure 2b shows the situation prevailing after the handover operation has been completed. Comparison of Figures 2a and 2b shows that in spite of the handover, the Ater interface channel and the A interface channel of the connection have 10 remained unchanged.

2) the handover is a BSC-internal handover in which the trigger condition is met, the control unit 4 of the base station controller directs the switching function S1 of the mobile services switching centre MSC to perform the handover. In this case the signalling takes place similarly as in a handover 15 between two separate base station controllers, with the exception that it is controlled by only one base station controller and it is carried out between the base station controller BSC concerned and the mobile services switching centre MSC. In the situation shown in Figures 2a - 2c this means that a new channel is allocated to the ongoing connection of the mobile station MS also 20 for the portion between the base station controller and the mobile services switching centre. Consequently, the speech processing unit TRAU1, which was used on the first telecommunications channel CH1, is replaced with a second speech processing unit TRAU2 used on the second telecommunications channel CH2. Figure 2c shows the situation prevailing 25 after this handover. The comparison of Figures 2a and 2c shows that the Ater interface channel and the A interface channel have changed during the handover.

Figures 3a - 3c illustrate a branching/summing function, which can be used in a switching function S1 of the mobile services switching centre 30 shown in Figures 2a - 2c for implementing the handover of the invention.

In the initial state shown in Figure 3a, the branching/summing function transmits both uplink and downlink signals associated with the connection the mobile station has between subscriber B and the first telecommunications channel CH1. This initial state corresponds to the state 35 shown in Figure 2a.

When the mobile station has moved to a location where the base

station controller triggers the handover, the branching/summing moves to an intermediate state shown in Figure 3b where it starts to branch a downlink data flow to the first and the second telecommunications channel CH1 and CH2. At the same time the branching/summing function starts to sum the data flow transmitted over the first and the second telecommunications channels CH1 and CH2 in the uplink and to transmit the summed data flow to subscriber B. The intermediate state shown in Figure 3b is usually activated shortly before a Handover Command is sent to the mobile station.

When the handover has been successfully completed (Handover Complete), the branching/summing function moves to a final state, shown in Figure 3c, where it transmits a data flow both uplink and downlink only between the second, i.e. a new telecommunications channel CH2 and subscriber B. The final state corresponds to the situation shown in Figure 2c. The branching/summing function of Figures 3a-3c used in the handover allows the break that commonly occurs in a prior art handover process to be essentially shortened.

The branching/summing function can be used to sum uplink signals by applying signal processing, where a-law companded 8-bit samples are first converted to 13-bit linear samples. The 13-bit linear samples can then be summed together. Finally the summed 13-bit linear samples are again converted to companded 8-bit samples which are then further transmitted towards subscriber B. As regards the downlink, a 64 kbit/s data flow can be branched, i.e. copied as such, without any additional operations, to the first and the second telecommunications channels CH1 and CH2.

Figures 4a-4d illustrate a branching/switching function. The branching/switching function of Figures 4a-4d can be used in the switching function S1 of the mobile services switching centre MSC shown in Figures 2a-2c for performing the handover of the invention. The branching/switching function shown in Figures 4a-4d is thus an alternative to the branching/switching function of Figures 3a-3c in that the switching function S1 of the mobile services switching centre may utilize either of the two alternatives. The branching/switching function shown in Figures 4a-4d is also applicable to the switching function S2 of the base station controller BSC where it is used as defined in the invention in those BSC internal handover situations where the speech coding method does not change.

The handover shown in Figures 4a-4d takes place in three phases,

the switching function having two intermediate states between the initial state and the final state. Figure 4a shows the initial state, i.e. a state where the connection between the mobile station MS and the mobile services switching centres MSC employs the radio channel used by the first base station BTS1.

5 In this case, a compressed speech signal travels between the first base station BTS1 and the base station controller BSC on the channel CH1. When the base station controller BSC decides to perform an internal handover, it sends a Channel Activation message to the second base station BTS2 and the second base station BTS2 acknowledges the message (Channel Activation Acknowledgement), the first step in the handover being thus completed.

In the first step of the handover, the branching/switching function moves from the initial state of Figure 4a to the intermediate state 1 of Figure 4b. The compressed downlink speech signal transmitted from subscriber B is then branched to the second telecommunications channel CH2 as well. In the 15 uplink, subscriber B remains only connected to the first telecommunications channel CH1 by the branching/switching function. The base station controller BSC then sends a Handover Command to the mobile station through the base station BTS1, and the mobile station MS tunes to the channel of the second base station BTS2. When the mobile station MS has successfully tuned to the 20 channel of the second base station, the second base station BTS2 sends information (Handover Detect) about this to the base station controller BSC. This completes the second step in the handover.

In the second step of the handover, the branching/switching function moves from the intermediate state 1 of Figure 4b to the intermediate 25 state 2 of Figure 4c. The branching/switching function uses the double-throw switch function to connect the uplink data flow coming from subscriber B from the channel CH1 to the channel CH2. The branching/switching function branches the compressed downlink speech signal further to the first channel CH1 and the second channel CH2. After the handover has been successfully 30 completed (Handover Complete), the third step in the handover process will be carried out.

In the third step of the handover, the branching/switching function moves from the intermediate state 2 of Figure 4c to the final state of Figure 4d. In the final state, the uplink signals received from the second channel CH2 are 35 transmitted to subscriber B and, correspondingly, the downlink signals from subscriber B are transmitted to the second channel CH2. If the handover is

performed by the switching function S2 of the base station controller, then the final state corresponds to the situation shown in Figure 2b. The handover in question is then a BSC-internal handover where the speech coding method and the telecommunications rate do not change. On the other hand, if the 5 handover is performed by the switching function S1 of the mobile switching centre, then the final state corresponds to the situation shown in Figure 2c. In this case the handover in question is a BSC-internal handover where the speech coding method and/or the data transfer rate change.

The branching of the downlink signals to the channels CH1 and 10 CH2, shown in Figures 4b and 4c, allows handover to be performed with a shorter break in the downlink signals. Because of the branching, the duration of the break depends on nothing else than on how fast and disturbance-free the mobile station is able to change from channel CH1 at the first base station BTS1 to channel CH2 at the second base station BTS2.

15 Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a first preferred embodiment of the method of the invention. Figures 5 and 6 show an example of how the invention can be applied in the GSM system. The flow diagram refers to the signalling messages and the switching function states associated with the handover. It is to be noted that the switching function states may change at 20 different points of the signalling messages than what is shown in the flow diagram. The signalling messages and the switching functions have been shown from the point of view of the base station controller BSC. For this reason the switching function states of the mobile services switching centre MSC are shown with broken lines. The signalling messages at the radio 25 interface and some of the signalling messages between the MSC-BSC and the BSC-BTS have been left out because they are not essential for the operation of the invention. The flow diagram shows a successful handover. If the handover fails or if an otherwise abnormal state is entered, the process proceeds exactly as given in the GSM recommendations in this regard.

30 The initial state (Figure 5) assumes that there is an ongoing connection (such as a call) and that the traffic is routed via the first base station BTS1. The base station controller BSC then receives measurement reports from the first base station BTS1 (step 400) at the pace of a SACCH block on the air interface at intervals of 480 ms. These measurement reports 35 contain both the measurement reports on the quality of the downlink air interface sent by the mobile station MS and those made on the quality of the

uplink air interface by the first base station BTS1. The measurement reports contain raw data on the quality of both the current radio channel (CH1) and the neighbouring base stations. The handover algorithm (step 401) located in the base station controller BSC continuously analyzes the raw data and if, due to

5 the air interface quality or for traffic reasons, for example, it is advantageous to perform a handover (step 402), the handover process is initiated and the routine proceeds to step 403. If it is decided that the handover is not going to be carried out, then the routine returns to step 400 and continues to receive and analyse measurement results.

10 In step 403 it is checked whether the target base station BTS2 and its traffic channel CH2 are controlled by the same base station controller BSC as the current base station BTS1. The base station controller BSC is able to conclude on the basis of the measurement reports sent by the mobile station MS whether the target base station BTS2 is controlled by the base station controller BSC in question.

15 If the target base station is controlled by another base station controller or mobile services switching centre, then a Handover Required message (step 404) is sent to the mobile services switching centre, the message containing the necessary information about the target base station

20 or, alternatively, a list of the target base stations in their order of preference. In step 405 the mobile services switching centre MSC investigates whether the handover is an MSC-internal handover or one between two mobile services switching centres. On the basis of the results, either a normal MSC-internal handover (step 407) or a handover between two mobile services switching

25 centres (step 406) is carried out. In both cases the switching of the traffic channels takes place at the mobile services switching centre, which allows either the branching/summing function or the branching/switching function to be applied so as to minimize the downlink switching break, irrespective of whether the speech coding method and the data transfer rate of the target

30 base station BTS2 are the same as the speech coding method and the data transfer rate of the serving base station BTS2.

35 If it is stated in step 403 that the handover in question takes place within the base station controller BSC, the routine checks in step 408 whether the trigger condition in use is met. According to the invention this is done by checking whether the speech coding method of the target base station BTS2 is the same as that of the current base station BTS1. It also also checked

whether the data transfer rate of the connection (between the mobile station and the base station controller) changes if the handover is performed. If the handover were to lead to a situation where the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes (or where they both change at the same time), this

5 would mean that the trigger condition is met. The above information can be obtained because the base station controller BSC always has information both about the accepted speech coding methods and the available data transfer rates of both the present base stations and the target base stations.

If it is detected that the trigger condition is not met when the base

10 station is changed, then a normal BSC-internal handover is performed, which is shown in steps 409-418. The process starts at step 409 with the activation of the traffic channel to the target base station (channel activation), which is acknowledged by the target base station BTS2 in step 410 (channel activation acknowledgement) when the new traffic channel has been activated both to air

15 and abis interfaces. When the base station controller BSC receives the channel activation acknowledgement, the branching/switching function of the traffic channels of the base station controller BSC is set to the intermediate state 1 (see Figure 4b). The mobile station is then sent a handover command via the serving base station BTS1 and when the mobile station MS receives

20 the command, it tunes to the new channel CH2 of the target base station BTS2. When the target base station BTS2 detects a Handover Access burst from the mobile station, it sends a handover detect message to the base station controller BSC (step 413). At this stage the branching/switching function of the base station controller BSC is set to the intermediate state 2

25 (step 414) and, as a result, also uplink data is transmitted via the second base station BTS2. After a successful handover, the mobile station sends a Handover Complete message (step 415) via the second base station BTS2. The branching/switching function can then be set to the final state, because there is no longer any risk of the mobile station returning to the channel of the

30 first base station BTS1 due to failed signalling. Finally, the base station controller BSC sends the first base station BTS1 an RF channel release message in step 417 which the base station acknowledges (RF channel release acknowledgement) after it has released the channel (step 418).

If it is detected in step 408 that the trigger condition will be met if the

35 base station is changed, a BSC-internal handover controlled by the mobile services switching centre MSC is carried out as shown in Figure 6. The base

station controller BSC first sends the mobile services switching centre MSC a handover required message in step 500. This message shows for example the channel of the serving base station BTS1, the current speech coding method and a cell identifier of the new base station BTS2 or, alternatively, a cell 5 identifier list giving the new base stations in their order of preference. In the next step 501 the mobile services switching centre sends a handover request to the base station controller BSC, the request comprising information for example about the channel of the serving base station BTS1, the current speech coding method and the cell identifier of the new base station BTS2. In 10 an ordinary handover taking place between two base station controllers BSC this message is sent to the target base station controller, but when a BSC-internal handover is concerned, the message is sent to the current base station controller BSC. In step 502 the traffic channel is activated to the base station BTS2 (channel activation) which is acknowledged by the target base 15 station BTS2 in step 503 (channel activation acknowledgement) when the new traffic channel has been activated both to the air interface and the abis interface. Next the base station controller BSC acknowledges the handover request message to the mobile services switching centre MSC in step 504. This acknowledgement comprises for example the handover command to be 20 transmitted to the mobile station, the channel in the new base station BTS2 and the new speech coding method. In step 505 the switching function is set to the intermediate state (it is assumed in this connection that the branching/summing switching function of Figures 3a-3c in particular is used in connection with the flow diagram of Figure 6).

25 The mobile services switching centre MSC then sends, in step 506, the handover command to the mobile station MS via the base station controller BSC and the serving base station BTS1 and, after having received the command, the mobile station MS tunes to the new channel CH2 of the target base station BTS2. As the new base station BTS2 detects a Handover Access 30 burst from the mobile station, the base station BTS2 sends a handover detect message to the mobile services switching centre MSC through the base station controller BSC (step 507).

After a successful handover the mobile station MS sends a Handover Complete message through the new base station BTS2 which the 35 base station controller BSC forwards to the mobile services switching centre MSC (step 509). The switching function is then set to the final state in step

510. Finally, the traffic channel of the original base station BTS1 is released in steps 511-514. First the mobile services switching centre MSC sends a Clear Command message in step 511, after which the base station controller BSC sends, in step 512, an RF channel release message to the original base
5 station BTS1 which the base station acknowledges, after it has released the channel (step 513), with an RF channel release acknowledgement. The process is completed by a Clear Complete message sent to the mobile services switching centre MSC (step 514).

It is to be understood that the above specification and the related
10 drawings are only meant to illustrate the present invention. A person skilled in the art will find it apparent that the invention can be modified and varied in different ways without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention disclosed in the accompanying claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for performing a handover where a telecommunications channel used by a connection between a mobile station and a mobile services switching centre is changed in a mobile communications system where the 5 telecommunications channel consists of a radio channel connecting the mobile station and a base station and of a channel connecting the base station and the mobile services switching centre, **characterized** in that the method comprises the steps of
 - selecting a new radio channel for the connection in question;
- 10 checking whether the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller where the base station employing the new radio channel and the base station employing the old radio channel are controlled by one and the same base station controller;
 - checking whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, said 15 condition being met if either the speech coding method or the data transfer rate changes, or if they both change at the same time, in connection with the handover; and
 - directing a switching function located in the mobile services switching centre to perform the handover, provided that the checks show that 20 the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller where the trigger condition is met.
2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the switching function of the base station controller is directed to perform the handover in question, provided that the checks show that the handover is an 25 internal handover of the base station controller where the trigger condition is not met.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that the process where the switching function of the mobile services switching centre or the base station controller is directed to perform the handover 30 comprises the following:
 - a first step where the switching function starts to branch telecommunications signals sent by the mobile services switching centre in the downlink direction to the mobile station such that the signals in question are supplied from the switching function further to both the base station employing 35 the old radio channel and to the base station employing the new radio channel;

a second step where the switching function interrupts the supply of telecommunications signals transmitted from the base station employing the old radio channel in the uplink direction and starts to supply in the uplink direction telecommunications signals received from the mobile station by the
5 base station employing the new radio channel; and

a third step where the switching function interrupts the supply of telecommunications signals, sent to the mobile station by the mobile services switching centre, in the downlink direction to the base station employing the old radio channel.

10 4. A method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that the first step is entered when a radio channel has been activated for the connection in question at the base station employing the new radio channel, the second step is entered when the base station employing the new radio channel detects that the mobile station has tuned to the new radio channel;
15 and the third step is entered when the mobile station confirms that it has started to use the new radio channel.

5. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the process for directing the switching function of the mobile services switching centre to perform the handover comprises the following:

20 a first step where the switching function starts to branch telecommunications signals to be sent in the downlink direction to the mobile station such that the signals are supplied from the switching function further to both the base station that employs the old radio channel and the base station employing the new radio channel, and to sum the telecommunications signals
25 transmitted in the uplink direction by the base station employing the old radio channel and the base station employing the new radio channel, and to forward the summed signals; and

a second step where the switching function interrupts the supply of signals in both the uplink and downlink directions between the mobile services
30 switching centre and the base station employing the old radio channel.

6. A mobile communications system comprising
a mobile services switching centre (MSC);
a mobile station (MS) having a connection to the mobile services switching centre (MSC) over a first telecommunications channel (CH1), and
35 control means (4) for directing a handover to replace the first telecommunications channel (CH1) used for the connection between the

mobile station (MS) and the mobile services switching centre (MSC) with a second telecommunications channel (CH2), **characterized** in that the system further comprises

comparison means (3) comparing the speech coding method and
5 the data transfer rate used on the first telecommunications channel (CH1) with one or more speech coding methods and data transfer rates available on the second telecommunications channel (CH2) in order to find out whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, said condition being met if the speech coding method used on the first telecommunications channel (CH1) is not
10 available on the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and/or if the data transfer rate of the second telecommunications channel (CH2) is different from the data transfer rate of the first telecommunications channel (CH1);

15 checking means (2) checking whether the handover is an internal handover of a base station controller (BSC) where the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) is controlled by the same base station controller (BSC) as the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2); and that

20 the control means (4) direct the switching function (S1) of the mobile service switching centre (MSC) to perform the handover, provided that the comparison means (3) and the checking means (4) show that the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller (BSC) where the trigger condition is met.

25 7. A mobile communications system according to claim 6,
characterized in that the control means (4) direct the switching function (S2) of the base station controller (BSC) to perform the handover, provided that the comparison means (3) and the checking means (4) show that the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller (BSC) where the trigger condition is not met.

30 8. A mobile communication system according to claim 6 or 7,
characterized in that

the switching functions (S1, S2) of the base station controller (BSC) and the mobile services switching centre can be directed at least to

35 a first state where the switching function (S1, S2) branches telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction to the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and the base station (BTS2) transmitting

the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies only signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) in the uplink direction to the mobile services switching centre (MSC);

5 a second state where the switching function (S1, S2) branches telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction to the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies only signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) in the uplink direction to the mobile services switching centre (MSC); and

10 a third state where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction only to the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies only signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) in the uplink direction to the mobile services switching centre; and

15 a third state where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction only to the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and where the switching function (S1, S2) supplies only signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) in the uplink direction to the mobile services switching centre; and

that the control means (4) direct the switching function (S1, S2) to perform the handover in such a way that the switching function (S1, S2) goes through the three states.

9. A mobile communications system according to claim 6,
25 characterized in that

the switching function (S1) of the mobile services switching centre (MSC) can be directed at least to

a first state where the switching function (S1) branches telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction so that the signals are supplied from the switching function further to both the base station (BTS1) employing the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and the base station (BTS2) employing the second telecommunications channel (CH2), and where the switching function (S1) sums in the uplink direction the signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and the signals received from the mobile station (MS) by the base

station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and forwards the summed signals; and

a second state where the switching function (S1) supplies telecommunications signals to be sent to the mobile station (MS) in the downlink direction only to the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel and where the switching function (S1) supplies only signals received from the mobile station by the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) further in the uplink direction.

10 10. A mobile communications system according to any one of claims 6 to 9, characterized in that said base station transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and said base station transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) are one and the same base station.

15 11. A mobile communications system according to any one of claims 6 to 9, characterized in that said base station transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and said base station transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) are different base stations (BTS1, BTS2).

20 12. A mobile communications system according to any one of claims 6 to 11, characterized in that the mobile communication system is a digital mobile communication system in which the mobile station (MS) and the mobile services switching centre (MSC) employ different speech coding methods and that the first (CH1) and the second (CH2) telecommunications channels are provided with speech processing units (TRAU1, TRAU2) which perform the coding and decoding operations needed for supplying speech signals between the mobile station (MS) and the mobile services switching centre (MSC).

25 13. A base station controller comprising control means (4) for directing a handover to replace a first telecommunications channel (CH1) used for a connection between a mobile station (MS) and a mobile services switching centre (MSC) with a second telecommunications channel (CH2), characterized in that the base station controller further comprises

30 35 comparison means (3) for comparing the speech coding method and the data transfer rate used by the mobile station (MS) on the first

telecommunications channel (CH1) with one or more speech coding methods available on the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and with the data transfer rate available on the second telecommunications channel (CH2) in order to find out whether a predetermined trigger condition is met, said
5 condition being met if the speech coding method used on the first telecommunications channel (CH1) is not available on the second telecommunications channel (CH2) and/or if the data transfer rate of the second telecommunications channel (CH2) is different from that used on the first telecommunications channel (CH1);
10 checking means (2) checking whether the handover in question is an internal handover of a base station controller (BSC) where the base station (BTS1) transmitting the first telecommunications channel (CH1) and the base station (BTS2) transmitting the second telecommunications channel (CH2) are controlled by the base station controller in question; and that
15 the control means (4) direct the switching function (S1) of the mobile services switching centre (MSC) to perform the handover, provided that the comparison means (3) and the checking means (2) show that the handover is an internal handover of the base station controller (BSC) and that the trigger condition is met.

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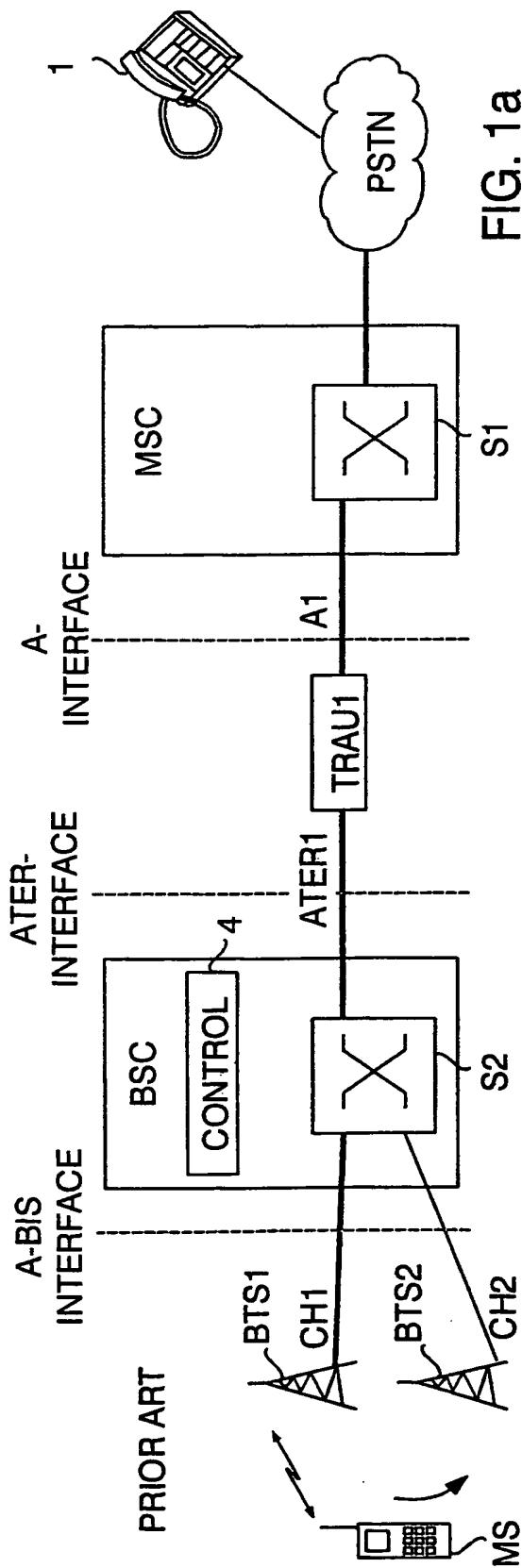


FIG. 1a

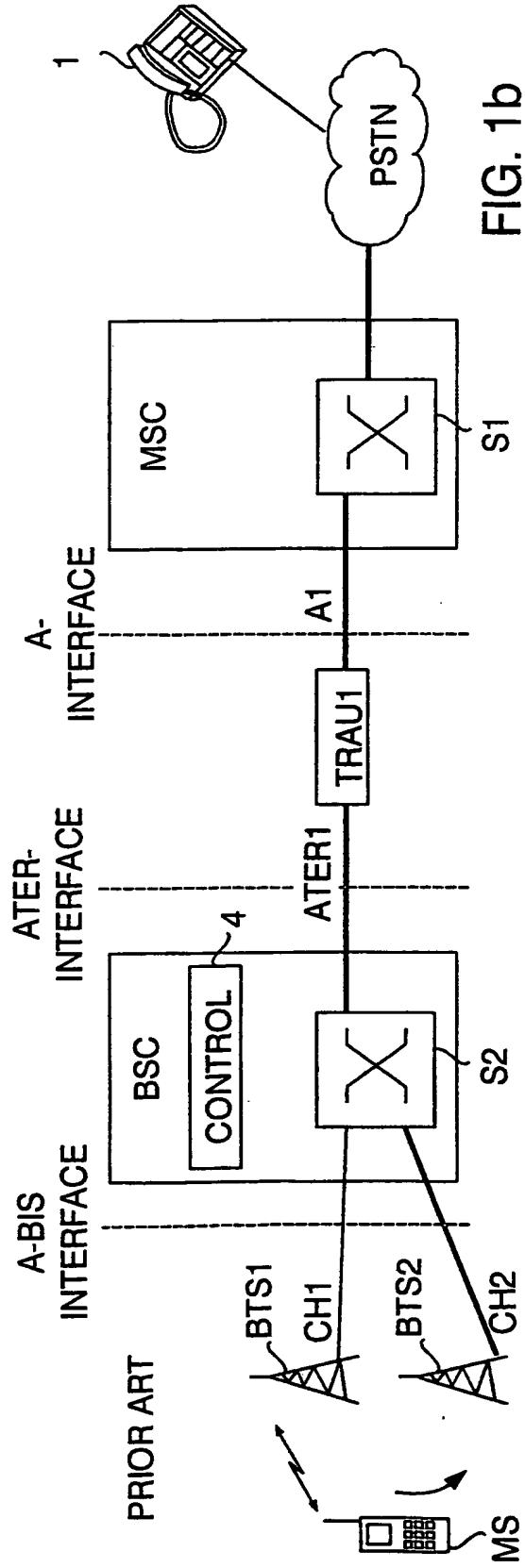


FIG. 1b

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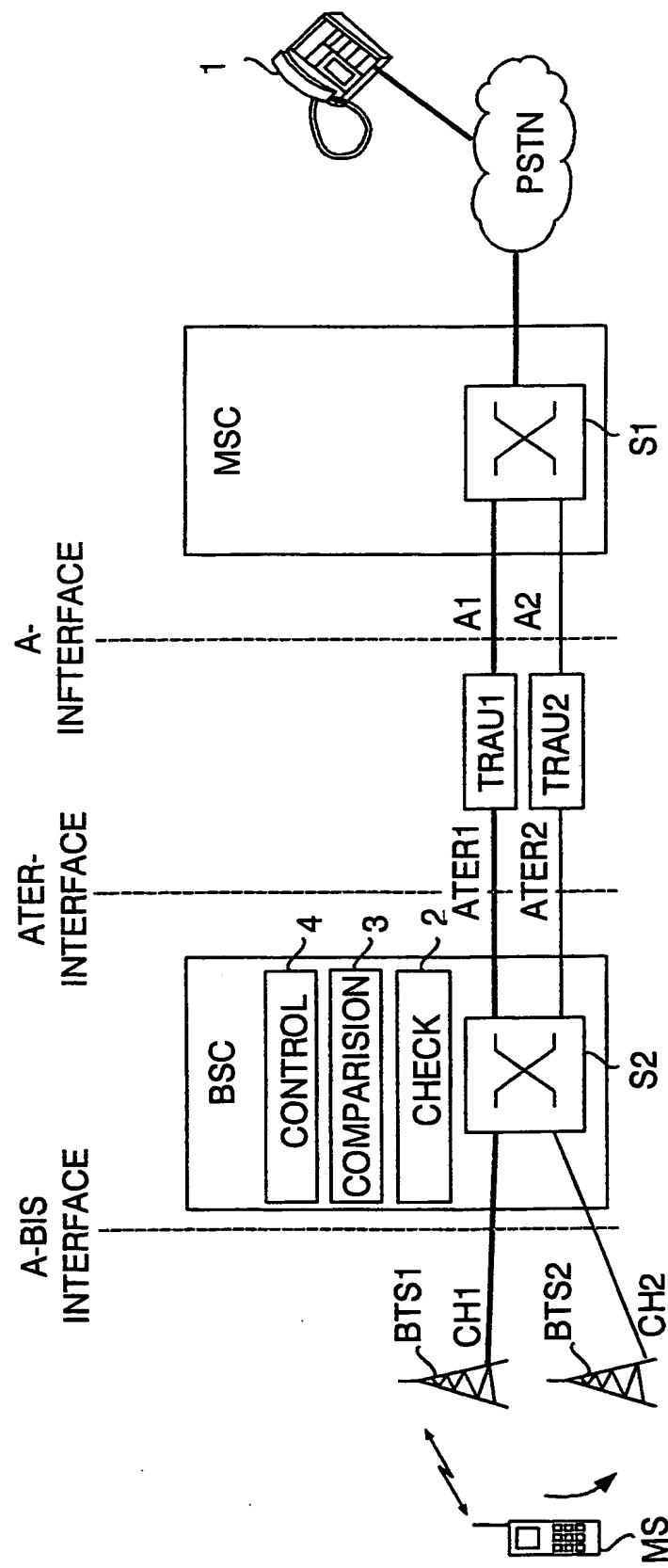


FIG. 2a

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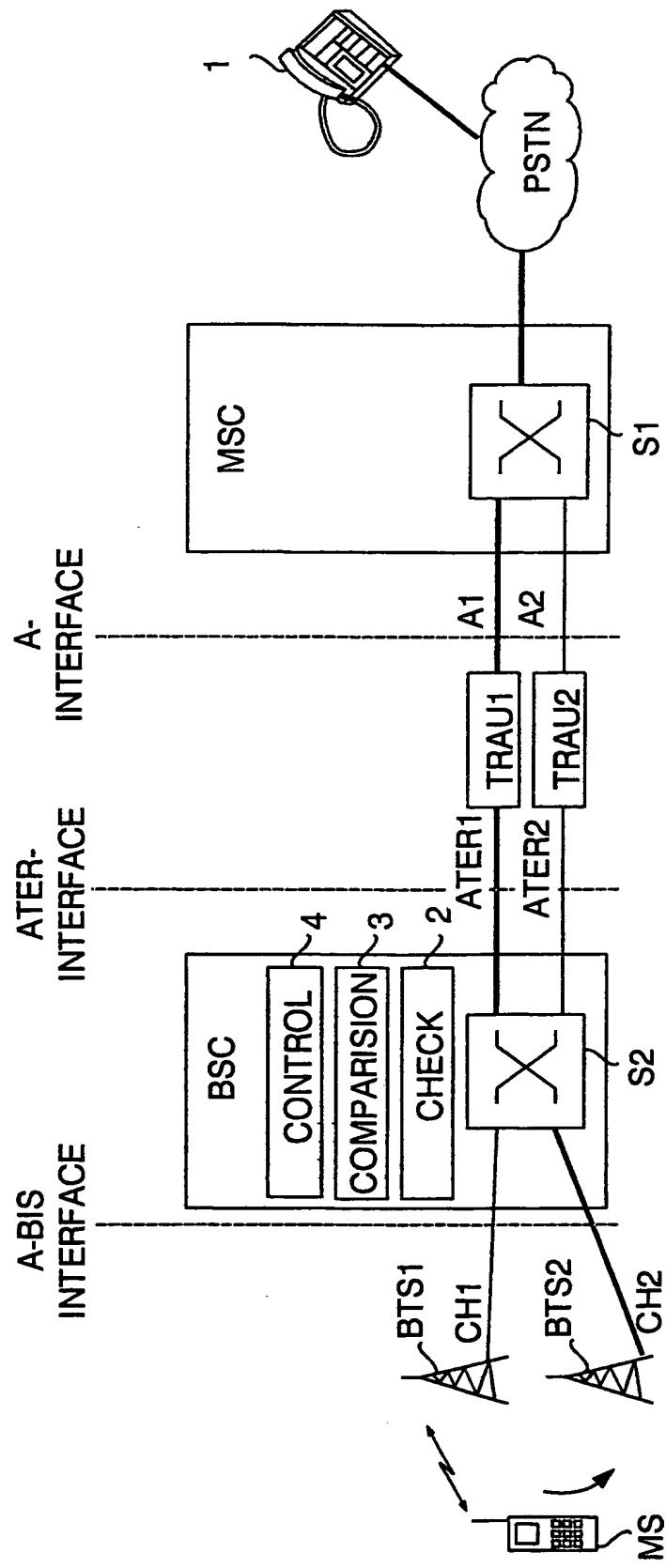


FIG. 2b

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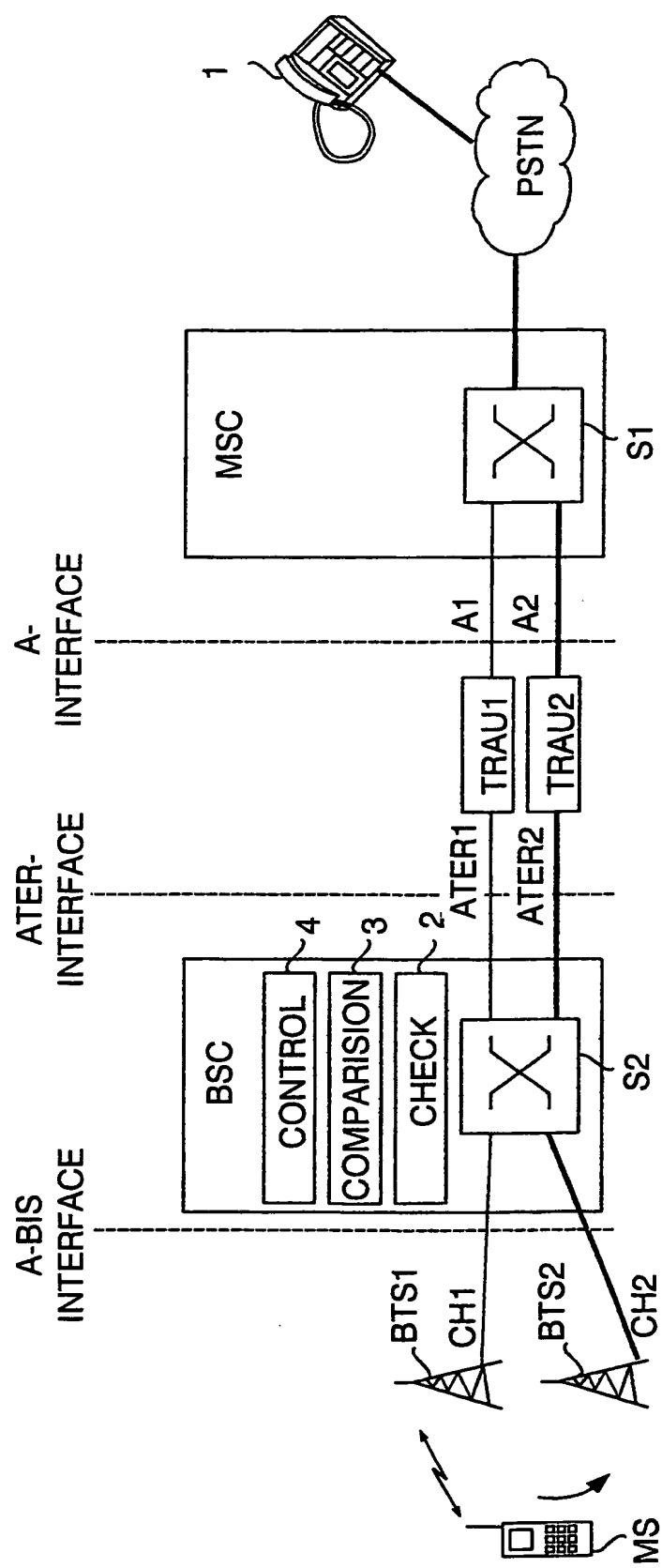


FIG. 2C

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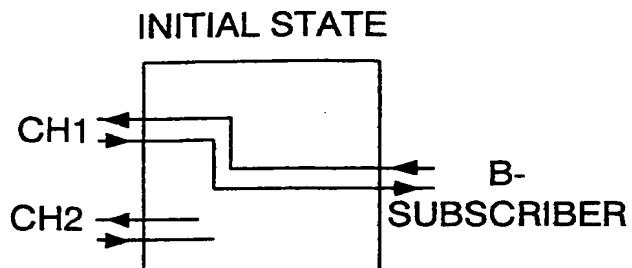


FIG. 3a

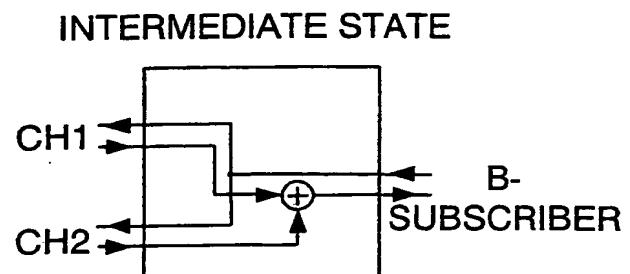


FIG. 3b

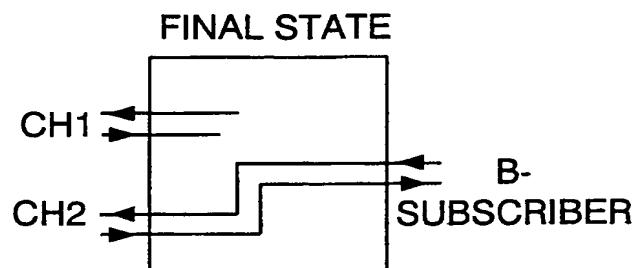


FIG. 3c

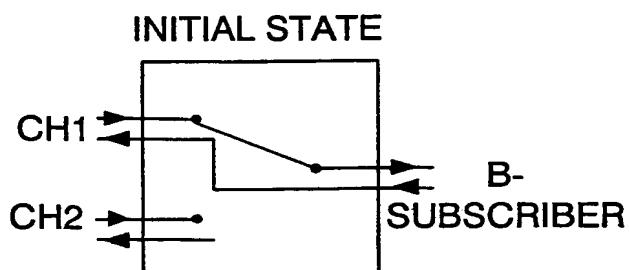


FIG. 4a

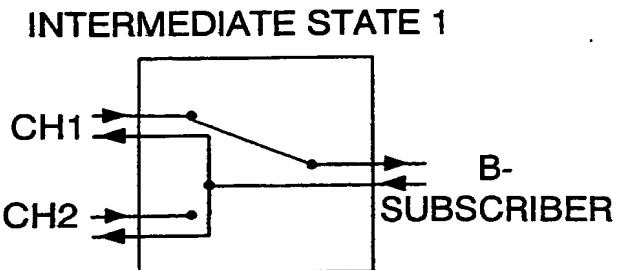


FIG. 4b

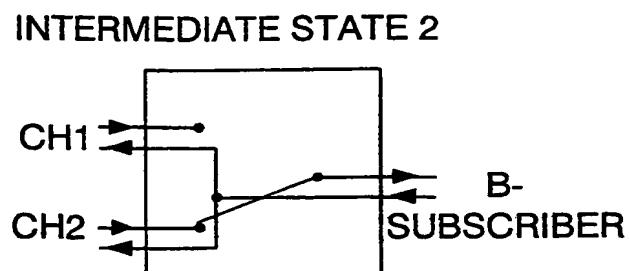


FIG. 4c

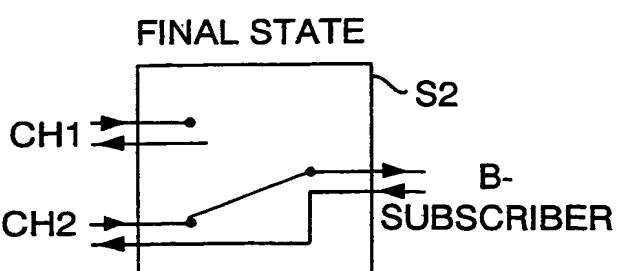


FIG. 4d

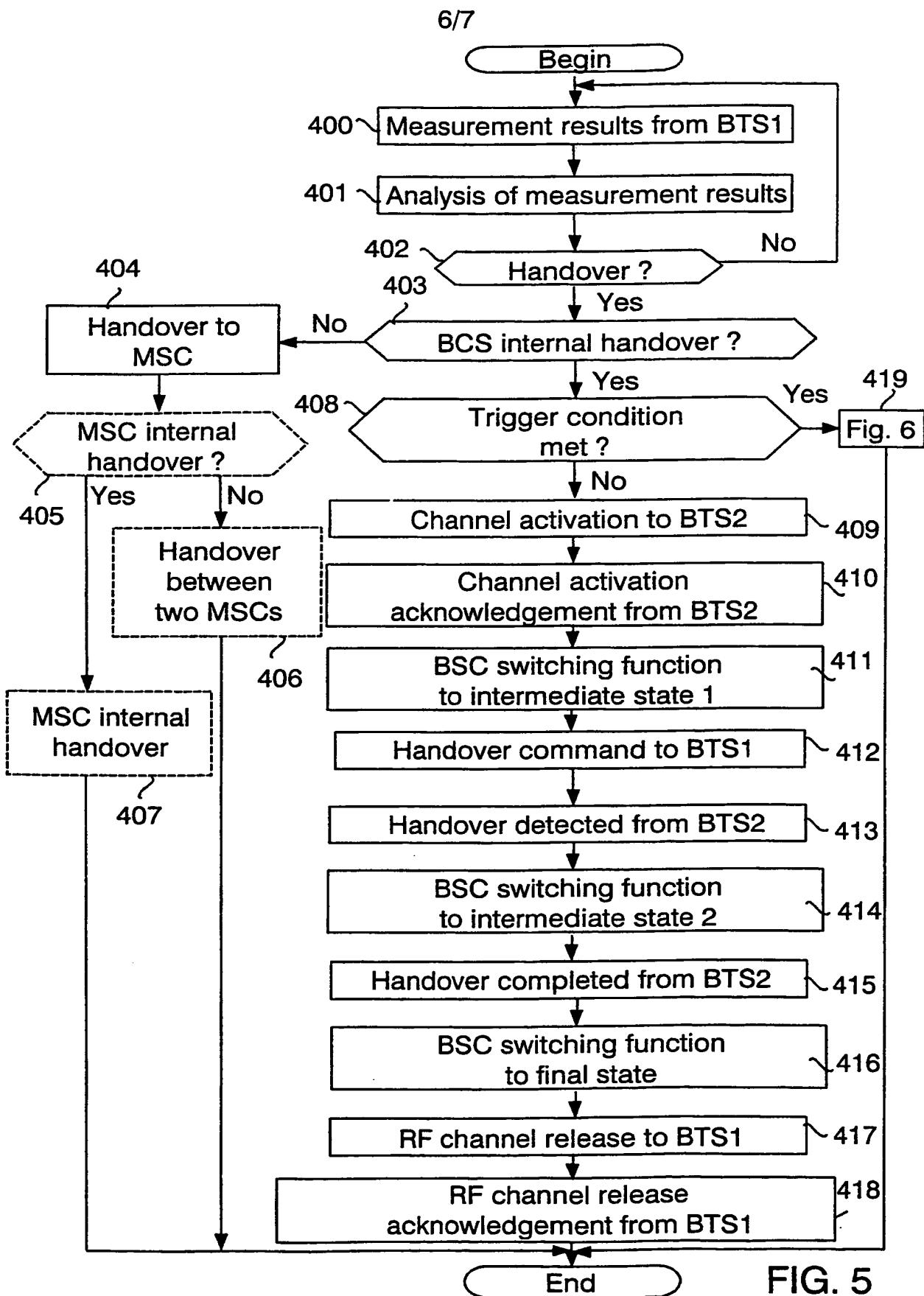


FIG. 5

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FIG. 5, 419

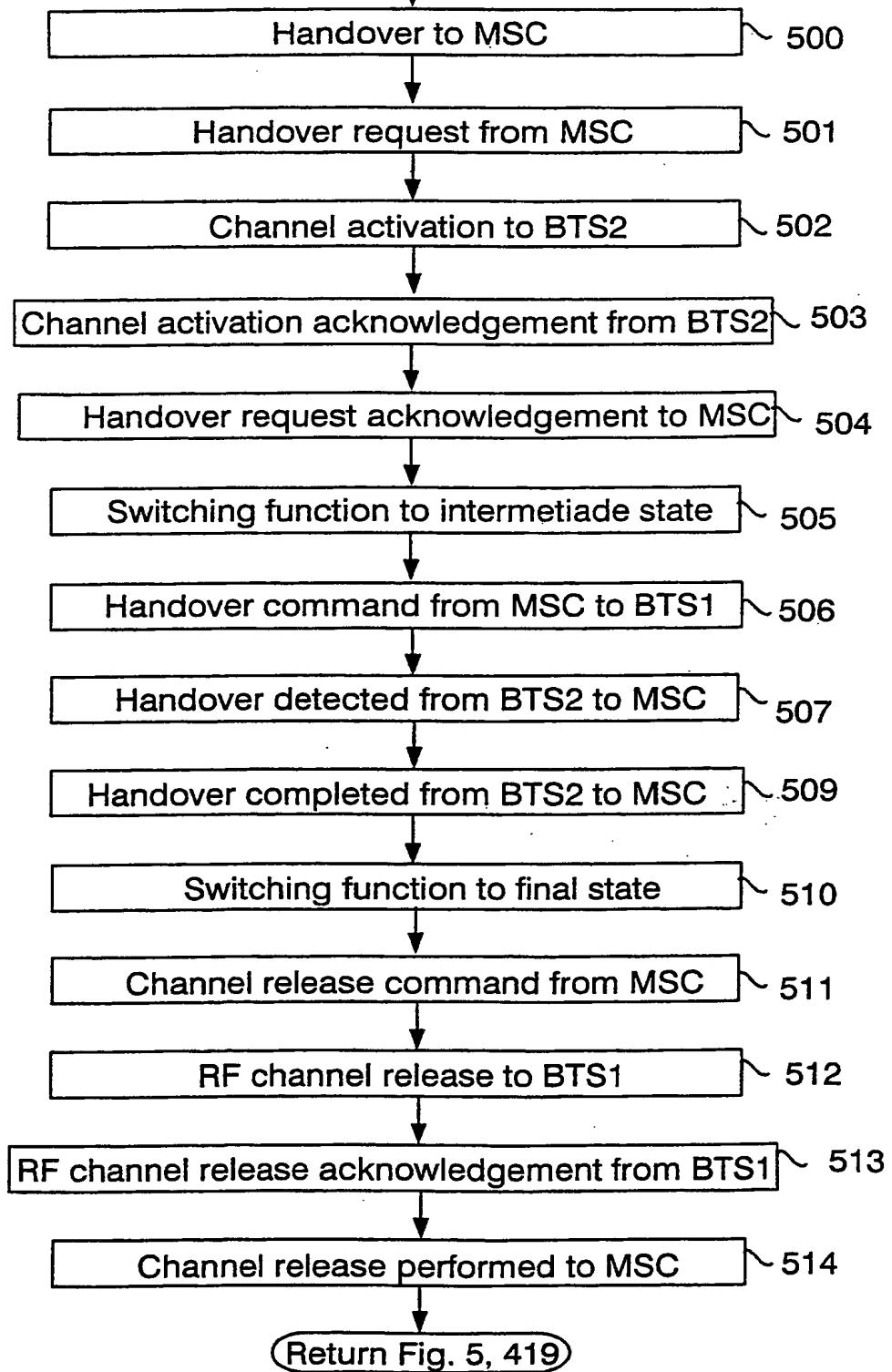


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00827

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: H04Q 7/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5884173 A (SÖLLNER), 16 March 1999 (16.03.99), column 11, line 1 - column 12, line 23 --	1-13
A	EP 0415502 A2 (PHILIPS ELECTRONIC AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED), 6 March 1991 (06.03.91), page 11, line 22 - page 12, line 17, figure 1, abstract --	1-13
A	Nagasuka, M et al "CDMA Packet Transmission Control in the Third Generation Mobile Communications System", Personal, Indoor and Mobile Radio Communication, 1998. IEEE, Vol 1, pages 178 - 182. --	1-13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

9 January 2001

12-01-2001

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00827

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>David, K et al. "Handover and Link Adaption on the RACE/ATDMA System Concept for a 3rd Generation Air Interface by Simulation", IEEE, 46th, 1996, vol 1, pages 451-455.</p> <p>---</p> <p>-----</p>	1-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FI 00/00827

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